

# ADOPTED



"In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved." – Eph. 1:4b-6 (NASB'95)

Valley Grace Brethren Church of Armagh, PA  
August 11<sup>th</sup>, AD 2024

# THE LORD'S DAY

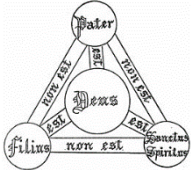
The Eleventh Day of August, *in the Year of our Lord* 2024

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Welcome to the worship services of Valley Grace Brethren Church!



## Sunday School—9:30 AM.



We continue our exciting and illuminating studies in Church History, looking at historic debates over the Triune nature of God. Please continue to pray for the success of our Sunday School program.

## Morning Worship—10:30 AM.

Call to Worship:\* *"Praise God from Whom all Blessings"* (#554)

Invocation.\*

Hymn: *"The Family of God"* (#75).

Prayer for Tithes & Offerings.

Scripture Reading: **Romans 8:12-23.**

Prayer, Praises, & Testimony.

Special Music: **Anna Mason.**

Announcements.

Hymn: *"A Child of the King"* (#179).

Dismissal of Youth for Children's Church.

Greeting One Another.

Message: *"REDEMPTION'S LEXICON: ADOPTION."*

Closing Hymn:\* *"Blest be the Tie that Binds"* (#74; vv. 1 & 4).

Benediction.\*



\*Please stand, if able.



Week of Aug. 4 – Aug. 10

Sunday School—6; Morning Worship—11;

Midweek—4; Offering—\$678.<sup>50</sup>;

Video: “On God”—122 views; “On Christ, pt. I”—74 views

Audio, Internet Archive: “Man & Sin”—14; “It’s About God”—10

## MIDWEEK SERVICE: WED., 6:30 PM

Our Wednesday Night teaching continues with **Daniel in the Lion’s Den**! Daniel was a giant of prayer and a man of consistent devotional practices who was thus **PREPARED** when the hour of crisis finally came (Dan. 6:10)--as it **ALWAYS DOES**! Knowing that he faced the King’s wrath and certain death for exercising his usual prayer habits, he nonetheless was found by his enemies to be **“PRAYING AND GIVING THANKS BEFORE HIS GOD, AS HE HAD BEEN DOING PREVIOUSLY.”** Giving thanks? Under such circumstances? Beloved, if a man seeks the Lord’s face, it must be with the appropriate **HEART-ATTITUDE**--i.e., as one who recognizes that he has been the past beneficiary of Divine grace and mercy, and whose spirit is thus overflowing with a befitting attitude of **gratitude, humility, and thanksgiving**. Daniel was facing a certain death-sentence--but he was nonetheless ***“giving thanks before his God!”*** He would not allow himself to be overwhelmed by outward circumstances (**Phil. 4:6**), but confidently--and without any indication of complaint or murmuring--committed the matter unto God’s wisdom and sovereignty! Paul would later remind us that such a course contains its own **THERAPEUTIC CONSEQUENCES** and **REWARDS** (**Phil. 4:7**). -- TLR

*Philippians 4:6-7: <sup>6</sup>“Be **anxious for nothing**, but in everything by prayer and supplication with **thanksgiving** let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the **peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension**, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*



**TODAY** is our Church Picnic, directly after services. **EVERYONE** is welcome and encouraged to remain with us and enjoy this time of food and fellowship!

## The Blessing of **ADOPTION**

Pastor Terry Reese, Valley GBC; 8/11/24

*Romans 8:15: For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"*

**"Abba!"** (Mark 14:36; Gal. 4:6) is an intimate & endearing Aramaic term, which could be expressed in the following terms: *"My Father, my own dear Father!"* It is the sort of affectionate and familiar term that little children use for their own loving and benevolent Father—not unlike our terms *"Daddy!"* or *"Papa!"*

There are two ways in which believers become God's children:

- 1) **spiritually**, through the grace of **Regeneration** (New Birth); and
- 2) **positionally, relationally, & legally**, via the grace of **Adoption**.

**Adoption** is one of our great blessings from the Cross. The basic Pauline concept is easily understood & relatable to our modern culture, even as it was to the ancient Romans. To **adopt** someone is to take a person that is not a natural child and to adopt them into your own household as a true & legal heir—a *full member of the family*—with all of the attendant rights, privileges, and benefits that this entails!!! In the poetic words of Harriett Buell:

*I'm a child of the King, a child of the King:  
With Jesus my Savior, I'm a child of the King.*

When we, who were *by nature* NOT members of the Family of God—but rather, *God's deep-seated enemies*—repent and place our trust in Christ, we become full-fledged members of His family through our legal adoption as legitimate sons and daughters!

**Scriptures for reflection:** *Rom. 8:15, 23; 9:4; Gal. 4:5; Eph. 1:5.*

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The latest issue of **The Voice** (the official Conservative GBC newsletter) can be found in the vestibule, with an inaugural message from President Peter Peer.



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**NEW ARRIVALS** in our Library include R.C. Sproul's masterpiece on sovereign election, **Chosen by God**.

